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THE  
HISTORY  
Of the Life and Death of  
**FAIR ROSAMOND,**

Concubine to KING HENRY II.

SHEWING

How Queen Eleanor plotted to destroy Fair Rosamond to prevent which, she was removed to a stately Bower, at Woodstock, near Oxford; and while the King was in France, Fair Rosamond was poisoned by Queen Eleanor.



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there is always kept on sale, a choice and extensive Assort-  
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Office Life and Death of

FAIR ROZAMOND.

Continued to KING HENRY II.

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There is always room on sale a choice and extensive  
ment of History, Geography, and Story Books.  
School Books, etc. etc.

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**HISTORY**

Of the Life and Death of

**FAIR ROSAMOND,**

Concubine to King HENRY II.

*Of Fair Rosamond's parentage and perfections.*

**T**HERE sprung from that ancient and noble house of Cliffords, a damsel named Rosamond, daughter to the Lord Walter Clifford, her beauty was couched in her name. She was nature's master-piece, and one of the fairest roses that ever flourished on earth.

This lady as she grew in years, she grew in favour, each year adding to her perfection; and when she attained to maturity, her fame spread into many foreign places, whereby she was not only the public and common discourse of our own nation, but even the table talk of remote

countries and foreign people. Her modesty was such, that she sought by all means to allay that far-spread rumour of her beauty, by a retired life; but the more she thought to extinguish and quench the report, by sequestering herself from the eyes of men, the more she was spoken, of the farther were her praises blown. At length her beauty reached the ears of the king, through the inadvertance of her uncle, who hearing his Majesty one day highly extol the features of a lady, said, "I have a niece, though but young, who in my small judgement of beauty, as far surpasses his lady, as she excels the meanest beauty of your court; her eyes sparkle like two twin stars, with such piercing rays, that dazzle those who venture to gaze on them; and her eye-brows shine like jet, and are arched like a rain-bow a spring of roses and lillies are in her cheeks, so mixed, that kind nature never before made so fair a mixture of the purest white and red; her nose a little rising exceeds that which Appelles painted Venus with, as chief ornament of her beauty: her lips exceed the coral whenever so finely polished, soft as the crimson velvet, hiding two rows of orient pearl; her chin, which with a little dimple adds beauty to the rest, and makes her face a perfect oval; her rising breasts are like two hills of snow, and her pretty hand excels in whiteness the alabaster, and so spread and branched with various kinds of azure that the motion of the blood in them may be seen thro' the soft transparent skin; to be brief, she is the master-piece of nature, who when she made



her cry'd a lucky hit, and threw away the mould, that none so lovely, fair and charming might come after to dazzle the eyes of men, and would their hearts."

This description rais'd such a flame in his Majesty's breast, that he demanded to know in what corner of the kingdom so great a beauty could be hid? To this the courtier who perceived he had gone too far, and that the king began to be enamoured at the bare report, would fain have drawn in his words again, answered, that indeed he had made this relation only to set out a perfect beauty to the life, begging his pardon and excuse: But the king perceiving by the coldness of this reply, there was more than ordinary in it, grew angry and told him, he trifled with him and charged him on his allegiance to tell him the truth: so fearing the King's displeasure, the courtier plainly said, There is such a lady, daughter to Walter Lord Clifford, and of my sister his lady, living at Godstow, in Oxfordshire, of whom many worthy persons have been enamoured, and sought her in marriage, but have been refused, because her tender heart is yet incapable of love; and this I affirm is the truth on the forfeiture of my head: As for the name of this fair creature, it is Rosamond, and indeed she is rightly named, for she is, if I have any skill in beauty, the peerless rose in the world. Whilst they were thus discoursing, Queen Eleanor came to visit the king, which broke off any further talk about her, nor needed the King any more, for his heart was possess'd

with a great desire to see her, that he could hardly sleep at night for thinking of her.

It was not long ere the king resolved to invite himself to her father's house, and to that end took a progress into Oxfordshire, attended only with some trusty courriers, and was highly welcomed by the Lord Clifford and his lady, who feared what his design was, ordered their daughter not to appear in his presence : But the King ordering one of his attendants to enquire of the servants to know if she was at home, and finding she was, demanded to see her, vowing he would not dine till he had. So that all their excuses of illness, and the like, availed nothing : then she was ordered to put on her best apparel and come down, that she might pay her duty to the king : which she did in the most courtly manner, her blushes, if possible, adding to her beauty : So that at the first sight she appeared in his eyes like an angel, whereupon he eagerly saluted her : and dinner being placed on the table, he commanded she should sit down, causing her to be placed directly over against him, on whose pretty eyes he had so long gazed, that he forgot often times to eat, taking in a long draught of love, which in the end proved the ruin of fair Rosamond by the jealousy of his furious Queen, as the sequel of this history will appear.

Which was the first time that the king saw her, and he was so much enamoured of her, that he forgot to eat, and took a long draught of love, which in the end proved the ruin of fair Rosamond by the jealousy of his furious Queen, as the sequel of this history will appear.

## CHAP. II.

*How King Henry won the love of fair Rosamond, by rich presents, and bribed her Governess to favour his designs, &c.*

**T**HE king having been highly entertained by the Lord Clifford, father to fair Rosamond, for three days together, he had several opportunities to discourse in private with the charming virgin, whom he so much won upon with presents of rich jewels, and other costly things, that he raised an ambition in her tender breast, that before it was a stranger to; often protesting that if the queen should die he would raise her to the dignity of the crown. He also bestowed his gold liberally on her tutoress, or woman, who had the care of her education; which so blinded her eyes, and prevailed over her conscience, that she promised him to do all that was in her power with the young lady to further his wished for happiness. And so having given store of gold to all the servants, he took his leave of his fair mistress with many endearing kisses, which he had no sooner done, but he heard troubles were risen again in the territories beyond the seas, which required his presence to allay and settle.

The king soon raising a gallant army, passed into France, the terror of whose name so daunted his enemies, that they quickly fled, leaving the towns and places, they had surpris'd, to his obedience. Yet in the midst of wars, blood, and slaughter, his love prevailed, and made him write to fair Rosamond in these words.

Fair Lady,  
**I**NSPIRED by the remembrance of your incomparable beauty, to which your king is a captive; I

have nevertheless made my enemies feel the effects of my anger, and mourn in tears of blood, my hasty parting from you. Guardian angel, whose bright eyes being still before, made me a conqueror wheresoever I came: 'Tis you whom I hold dearer than all the glories of a crown; permit me, fair one, to assure you my stay shall not be long, and when I return, I'll place you in a glittering sphere above the reach of those you dread; in the mean while, let a languishing king prevail in his suit, when he begs a line or two of comfort from your dear hand.

HENRY R.

This letter somewhat surpris'd the young lady, and fill'd her with tears and irresolution, not well knowing how she should behave herself in so weighty a matter, nearly concerning her good name, fame, and character; yet the glittering prospect of greatness and honour, pleading on the other hand, she resolv'd to shew it to her tutors, who as soon as she read it, smiling in her face, said, my dear child, you may now well see that all the happy constellations agree, that so excellent a beauty as your's, must not be enjoy'd by a mean person; you're made for a queen and in yielding now to fortune promis'd, is a large step towards the throne: You may perceive Jove is descending in a golden shower, to make you more rich and glorious than Dianna though she was the daughter of a king. Lay aside your blushes; and send him a comfortable answer: let not too much modesty hinder you of so great an honour, as being mistress of so noble a king.

This made her blushes come and go, long struggling within her, till at last this crafty matron us'd so many pressing arguments, that she return'd the following answer.



Great Sir,

'T WAS with no small astonishment I read a letter subscribed with your royal name, and sent to me, as I suppose from your own hand, but am altogether ignorant in any such power in me, as to make a captive of my king; But could not, I confess, read without some pleasure that my idea, as your Majesty is pleased to flatter me, should have an influence in making your Majesty conqueror over your enemies. Yet, may it please your Majesty, I cannot but interest myself so much in your affairs, as to rejoice when you are victorious, and be glad of your success. But as to my being placed in a glittering sphere, above the reach of those I dread I neither understand it, nor dare I give myself the liberty of thinking what your Majesty's meaning may be therein: But as I know I deserve no such promotion, so neither do I desire it. And as to my own innocence, so your Majesty's royal goodness is sufficient to keep me from any thing intended by it, that is incomparable with the strictest rules of honour and virtue. And therefore praying for your Majesty's happiness, prosperity, and safe return, I beg leave with the most humble submission, to subscribe myself

Your Majesty's ever dutiful,  
and most obedient subject,  
and humble vassal,

ROSAMOND.

The king having received fair Rosamond's letter read it over and over; and is it so, says the king, does Rosamond rejoice at my success, and pray for my prosperity and safe return? Then she's my own, and on that account I'll hasten home.

All other loves henceforth I'll decline,  
For now the rose of all the world is mine.

## CHAP. III.

*How the lady Clifford discovered the love that the King had for her daughter; and after a severe reprimand sent her away; but they hearing where she was, caused her to be brought to court.*

THE king's affairs keeping him in Normandy longer than he expected, it happened that the lady Clifford going into her daughter's closet, accidentally espied the king's letter to Rosamond, at which being extremely surprized, as knowing nothing of what had passed between them, went and shewed it to her husband the Lord Clifford who had a very tender love for Rosamond, at which he was exceedingly disturbed: then they returned both together to their daughter's chamber, where upbraiding her with being a strumpet to the king, and taking away the comfort of their lives, who looked upon her as their chiefest treasure; she kneeled down upon her knees, and solemnly protested to them, that she was still a pure and unblemished virgin. This solemn protestation somewhat appeased her father's anger, who thus replied, My only child, my dear Rosamond, the staff and comfort of my father's age, I am glad to find that thou art still innocent: let me advise thee, child, to have a care, and keep thyself unspotted as thou art; gaze not too much on the bright sun of honour, lest it should make thee blind to thy own destruction; For shouldst thou come to glitter near the throne, it would only be with a faint reflection, that would have in it neither life nor heat. What honour would it be to have, it said, that Rosamond is King Henry's concubine, and for unlawful love has lost her virtue? Consider, child, if chastity be gone there's nothing praise-worthy in women; pride not thyself in

being beautiful, 'tis falsely called so if thou art not chaste, for tho' thy body appear never so fair, yet without chastity, it cannot be beautiful. Beauty is like the flowers of the spring, fair to the sight yet quickly fade away, but chastity is like the stars of heaven that always shine with a refulgent brightness. There is a difference between love and lust, one is far distant from the other, as heaven is from hell: And all the King's addresses unto thee, are the effects of lust, and not of love; he has a queen to whom his love is due; and think what a jealous rage will fill her breast, when she shall know thou robbest her of her king; For jealousy is a hell to the mind; and a terror to the conscience, suppressing reason and exciting rage. Think then, my child, what 'tis thou canst expect, in thy unlawful love, or rather lust; Thou wilt be sure to lose thy virtue, thy honour, thy chastity, thy reputation, and what is more, perhaps thy life; and which is most of all, thy soul, without repentance. If therefore thou wilt change thy virgin state, I will take care to get a husband for thee, with whom thou may'st live honestly, and that perhaps may be the means to quench that fire of lust thy beauty may have kindled in the King, and make thee self, and us thy parents easy.

Fair Rosamond gave great attention to her father's words, assuring them, with great asseverations, that she would, to the utmost of her power, avoid whatever should be displeasing to them. But that as to the changing her condition, she humbly did desire to be excused, for that she had a mind to live a virgin.

Her mother thereupon said, Rosamond, it would be much more to our satisfaction to see you married, and you well know Lord Fitz Waters has a passion for you, a nobleman of an illustrious family, as wealthy too as most lords in the kingdom; and therefore do not stand in your own light lest you thereby do make

us both believe you have too great kindness for the King.

To this Rosamond answered she would be willing to give them all the satisfaction they desired, but hoped they would not put her upon courting Lord Fitz Walters, however well accomplished he might be; but that it was enough for her to entertain him when he came. Her father told her as to that, he would take care that all things should be managed to her satisfaction; but when he came to court her, he expected that she would treat him as a person worthy of her love; for he should measure the duty that she paid to him, by the respect she should shew to that young gentleman. To which she only answered, she hoped she should in no case be wanting in her duty.

But while the good Lord Clifford and his lady were pleased in their designed proposals of their daughter, King Henry returned from Normandy, having concluded all his business there, and made a peace with France, and with his sons. This made fair Rosamond very indifferent to the Lord Fitz Walter, who by permission of her father, had begun to court her: so that she told him plainly she had a greater kindness for him than to expose him to the King's resentment: For she was sure whoever courted her, must undergo the anger of the King. This was such a blow to the young lord, as quickly cooled his courage, for he had no mind to have the King in his rival. But before he went away he told her father how he had been dismissed by Rosamond; who then perceiving there was no trusting to what she said, resolved to send her away as private as possible. In a few days every thing was prepared for her journey, and she and her false governess took coach and went to a kinsman's in Cornwall, in order to remain there undiscovered, until



the King's affections were diverted and placed upon some other meritorious beauty.

But when a wolf is fet to keep the sheep, they are not like to be long safe : for Alethes, bribed largely by King Henry, was all this while the grand intriguer in his love affair ; who took an opportunity of sending to the King a large account of all things that had passed, and where they were sent to.

King Henry having this intelligence, resolved to have her out of their hands, and thereupon sent for her uncle, and commanding him to go to Cornwall, and use his best endeavours to bring fair Rosamond to court.

Her uncle seemed at first a little startled at this command, but was loth the King should think he was unwilling to obey, which might incur his displeasure, and run the risque of having those great places he held under the King taken from him : for the sake of which he undertook the ungrateful service which the king imposed upon him.

Having received the King's commands, away he goes for Cornwall, where finding his niece, pretended great kindness to her, and how glad he was to find her there. After some jocular discourse together, he asked her if she would go up with him to court, for he was sure the King would make her welcome : she readily accepted of the offers, and therefore, without any more ado, he provided a very noble chariot for her journey ; and so attended with her governess, and put her in private lodgings which were appointed by the King for her reception.

Her uncle having acquainted the King that she was at court, and he had disposed of her, he came that very night to pay her a visit ; and Rosamond knowing it was the King, kneeled down upon her knees, but he ran and took her up, with this exordium.

O fairest of creatures under heaven! kneel not to me, for thy excellent beauty commands all knees and hearts to bow to thee: then kissing her as if he would have sucked away her breath, said, welcome to me, my sweetest rose, welcome to Henry's court, my dearest Rosamond; All here, my Rosamond, are at thy command; then say, my sweet rose, what is it thou wilt ask of Henry?

To which she answered, under the frowns of my offended parents; I beg protection at your royal hand, and that within your court I may be free.

Free, said the King: Alas! my Rosamond, 'tis I have reason to make that petition, for you have long since made your King a captive.

Pardon me, gracious sovereign, replied Rosamond; for if I have been guilty of such a crime, I am sure it was through ignorance.

To which the king replied, ah! Rosamond, you have made me a captive, but without a crime: for 'tis your beauty that has enthralled my heart, that wondrous beauty that's without a parallel. And as for that protection which you beg, King Henry tells you, that you may command it; and it is the highest reason that you should.

Her answer was, I thank your majesty, and will henceforth esteem myself secure, under the promised protection.

This discourse having passed, the King told her that in regard of being fatigued with her journey, he would give her no further disturbance that night; and so charged her uncle to see that she wanted nothing she desired to have; he took his leave for that time.

Alethea, her governess, was with her still, and did all she could to persuade her to yield to the king's embraces: But Rosamond seemed averse to it, what her father before had said to her running in her mind.

And now the king having visited her several times, began to be impatient to see delay: and therefore coming one evening to see her, for he generally visited her in the evening for the greater privacy, he importuned her very much to yield to his embraces and protested his wounds could not be cured without enjoyment.

Rosamond seemed extremely disordered at what the king said, and was going to kneel down, but the king would not suffer her but plucked her up again, and said, kneel not my dearest Rosamond; it is I should kneel to thee. I only ask—

Here Rosamond interrupting him, said, ask for my life, great Sir, and you shall have it; or any thing that is in my power to give; but ask not for my honour, not to give up my virgin jewel; for that is so precious and valuable, I can never part with it, but to a husband. My outward form is but the casket only; 'tis virtue is the jewel; and when that is gone, what worth is in the other: Not a poor peasant would esteem that; much less is it a present for a King. Nor would your majesty, if I should part with it, regard me afterward but as a strumpet. She that has lost her honour, is but a faded flower, how gay soever she appeared before; and like a clouded diamond, of no value. 'Tis virtue only is the precious jewel that overshines with an unclouded lustre—And then kneeling down, said: Let me beg of you, Sir, to ask no more for that which I can never grant but to a husband.

The King was greatly surprized to hear such words from Rosamond; of whom he thought he should have made easy conquest; and was as much in love with her good parts and virtue, as he was with her beauty. And having taken his leave of Rosamond, away he goes to her governess and told her what repulses he had met withal from Rosamond, instead of that enjoyment

he expected ; Alethea, as one that was case hardened in wickedness, told the King, that if his majesty pleased to follow her humble advice, he should not enter into any further parties with her, but that he should find a nearer way to the happiness he desired.

Pray inform me, said the King, the method you would advise to pursue, in order to gain her to my embraces.

May it please your Majesty, the way that I would have you take is this, that you should come into my chamber to-morrow night a little before bed time, and I will leave you there a while till I have got my lady Rosamond to bed, and whereas I lie with her every night, I will delay the time of my going to bed, as I sometimes do, 'till she's asleep, and then I will bring your majesty into the chamber, and you shall go to bed to her in my stead ; and I doubt not before the morning light, your majesty will so well satisfy her, that all her anger will be over ; and for the future your admittance will be easy.

The King was very well pleased with this contrivance, and as a token thereof, presented her with a rich diamond ring, and told her he would follow her advice, and be with her inco the next night.

The next evening the King came to Alethea according to his time ; and presently after she went to get Rosamond to bed, as she wont to do : And in about an hour's time she returned and told the King that if he pleased to follow her, she would bring him where Rosamond was in bed and fast asleep.

His majesty needed no persuasions to follow her, but went immediately to Rosamond's chamber, where he soon disrobed himself ; and Alethea, taking her leave, left him to manage the business with Rosamond, according to his own discretion.

The king having shut the door, and locked it after



Alethea, went to bed to Rosamond, who was fast asleep, not dreaming of the treacherous part that her governess had played. The king not willing presently to awake his charming mistress, lay still; laying closer to her than Alethea used to do, she awaked of herself and not knowing but 'twas Alethea that was in bed, said, I prithee, governess (for so she used to call her, and such she was) lie further off a little, you crowd so close, as if you'd thrust me out of bed.

And now the king thought it a proper time to speak to her, and let her know who it was that was her bed-fellow; And thereupon he bespoke her thus; My dearest Rosamond, it is not your governess, it is your King that lies so close to you (and thereupon embraced her in his arms) and sure you need not fear that I would thrust you out of bed.

It is not easy to imagine how great was the surprise that Rosamond was in at this discovery; fain she would have gotten out of bed; the King held her fast and would not let her go. O Sir, said she, I could not think you would have served me thus, when you assured me that in your court I should be safe and free.

Yes, said the King I know I promised it; that to a title I will make my word good; for you shall be free and safe as ever.

If it be so, said she, pray let me go, and give me leave to rise.

No, said the King, then I should break my word, you cannot be more safe than in my arms; for now I am sure nothing can injure you.

Rosamond now found resistance would be in vain, and that since things had gone so far, she had better oblige the King than to deny him that which he would take whether she should or not, and thereupon, without resisting any further, suffering the King to do what he pleased.

For a time these two happy lovers often met and enjoyed their wanton dalliances in private; but at length it reached the ears of the Queen, whom complained to the King of such usage.

#### CHAP. IV.

*How Queen Eleanor plotted to destroy Rosamond, to prevent which, she was removed to a stately bower built for her at Woodstock: How the Queen to further her design, caused her son Richard to raise a war against his father in Normandy.*

QUEEN Eleanor growing outrageous, when she perceived no kind words or entreaties, mixed with tears, could wean the King's love from his new mistress, she began to use more rough measures, threatening to destroy her, thinking thereby to terrify and affright her from his arms; but to prevent violence, appointed her a guard to wait on her at home and abroad; and to remove her further from the queen's sight; that her envy and continual clamours, if possible, might cease, he caused a stately palace, called the delightful Bower of Woodstock, in Oxfordshire, to be built with great cost: with all the cunning turnings and windings imaginable, far exceeding the delation Labyrinth, which he appointed for her country retirement, when she pleased to take the air. The stately bower had many entries and passages under-ground, into which light came thro' narrow stone crevices, shaded with blossoms not perceived to those that walked above, rising with doors in hills far distant, to escape from danger, upon any timely notice, tho' the palace should be suddenly besieged, and surrounded, and within this stately Bower were intricate mazes and

windings through long entries, rooms and galleries, strongly secured with 150 doors: so that to find the way into the remote apartments, the skilful artist had left a silver clew of thread without the guidance of which, it was impossible to be done. About this Bower were curious gardens, fountains, and a wilderness, and all manner of delights for pleasant situation and recreation, to furnish it out as another earthly paradise, for so fair a creature to inhabit; and thither the King often resorted to see his beloved Rosamond.

This enraged the queen more and more, therefore she consulted her sons how to be revenged: at length it was agreed on, that prince Richard should go over and join with the French to raise war against his father in Normandy, which then belonged to the crown of England, and that would draw the King hither to aid his subjects, so leaving his fair mistress behind, the queen would have an opportunity to plot against her life. Nor was Prince Richard slow in this, but made a fierce war, beat the king's lieutenant, and took many towns: which news coming to the King's ear, roused him as a lion from his den, and filled him with princely resolutions and revenge: 'tis true, indeed, these different passions of revenge and love, long struggle in his breast: but love at last gave place unto his honour, and he therefore resolved to pass the sea with a well disciplined army.

#### CHAP. V.

*How the King took leave of Rosamond to pass the Sea, and left her to the care of her uncle.*

**T**HIS resolution of the King soon came to the ears of Rosamond, which she received with an inex-

pressible grief. The King, however, firm unto his resolves, being just ready to depart for Normandy, went to take leave off fair Rosamond. and to assure her of his love and kindness: when his Majesty came in, he found her in a swoon, and when she came a little to herself, faintly said, ah, dearest prince. How cruel is unkind fortune unto lovers, that we must so soon part; my presaging soul forbodes never to meet again in this world; was it for this that I gave up my virgin innocence to your will and pleasure! O! is there no English General trusty and valiant enough to scourge your rebels, but you must be separated from your faithful Rosamond.

Then calling to him Sir Thomas, her uncle, he said, here worthy night, I commit this inestimable treasure to your sole care and conduct, my fair Rosamond; a treasure far more valuable than a kingdom; take to you a strong guard for your defence, and be careful, I charge you as you tender your life that none be permitted to see her, till my return. And you may expect fair Rosamond, I shall write to you often, and require your answers. Alas, said she, this parting is worse than death, and I'm sure the soul and body cannot part with so much pain, as now I part with you. Fain would I speak my last farewell, but cannot, there are so many deaths in that hard word. Go, royal sir, that I may know my grief; for grief's but guess'd, while you are standing by. Ah, Rosamond, replied the King, methinks there are such mournful sounds in parting, that I could hang for ever on thine arms, and look away my life upon thine eyes: But I have far to go, and must hasten. And so have I, said Rosamond again, if death be far, for that's the stage to which I am now going, from whence I never, never shall return. And in tears parted from each other.



## CHAP. VI.

*How fair Rosamond was poisoned by Queen Eleanor,  
while the King was at France.*

THE King being gone out of the land, away she posts to Woodstock, with some of her trusty friends, who arrived at the Bower, essayed to enter, which was stily denied by Sir Thomas, her uncle, on which a fierce combat ensued, and Sir Thomas and his guard being killed by the queen's party, they seized on the clew of thread and presented it to the queen, who by its guidance, was directed by it to the centre of the labyrinth, where she found Rosamond, sitting as the sun within the little world.

It cannot be expressed the amazement and confusion fair Rosamond was in when she beheld the queen, and immediately fell down on her knees, confess'd her fault and implored her pardon for a crime she was constrained to act; and at last she humbly besought her in compassion of the infant that struggled in her womb, she might live, though in a dungeon, 'til she was delivered. But all in vain, the jealousy of the enraged queen could not be appeased, she gave her the choice either to drink the cup of poison she had prepared for her, or die by the sword. Fair Rosamond finding she could have no pity, choose the poison and drank it up, which soon put an end to her life; whom the queen caused to be buried privately with the rest that were slain, and so departed, rejoicing in the success of her revenge on her rival, but little considered the misery it would pull on her own head.

## CHAP. VII.

*How when the King returned and heard of fair Rosamond's death he caused several of the Queen's party to be put to death, and her Majesty to be imprisoned for life.*

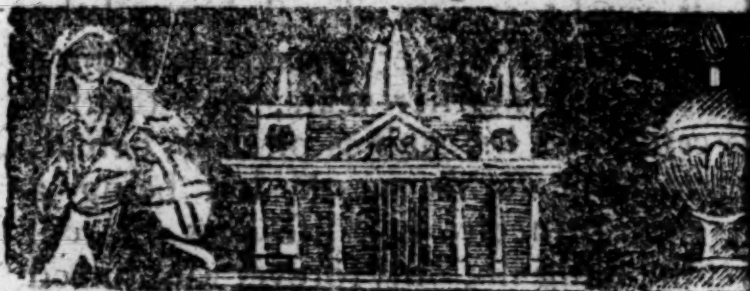
**S**OON after the untimely death of fair Rosamond the King returned home victorious; but when he heard of the tragical end, his joy was soon turned into mourning, and in a kind of distraction rent his royal robes, often weeping and crying out, O my Rosamond, my fairest flower! how art thou blasted by a cruel death, and with thee all my joys are faded: O thy parting tears prefigured that we should meet no more. O that I had staid to defend thee from this ruin, though to the loss of a country, nay, to eclipsing of mine own fame and renown.

The king having a little eased his grief, summoned his judges, and commanded them to make a strict enquiry after those that were concerned in this action: and they were so diligent

therein, that most of them were apprehended, convicted, and put to the most cruel torture ; who all blamed the queen, and so sincere was the King's anger, that neither tears, nor the intercession of his nobles on her behalf, could appease his wrath, but being a foreign princess, her life was spared, yet the King not only forever renounced her, but confined her for life in a strict imprisonment, commanding, if she died there, her body should not be buried, but there moulder to dust ; nor would he forgive her at his death, for she out-lived him, and was set at liberty after his decease, by her son Richard, who succeeded his father.

King Henry having wrecked his vengeance on the murderer of his beloved Rosamond, caused her body to be taken out of that obscure cave, in which the queen had caused her to be laid, and buried her with all the funeral pomp imaginable, as Godstow, near Oxford, and erected to her memory a stately tomb, on which was the following inscription.

Within this tomb lies the world's chieftest rose,  
 She who was sweet, will now offend your nose.



This was the end of fair Rosamond,  
 who, had she not been led astray by  
 King Henry, with the glittering tinsel  
 of royalty, might have made a wife  
 worthy for the greatest peer in England.

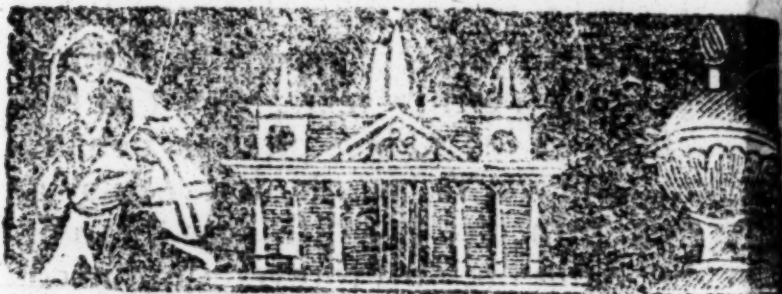
**FINIS.**





nd,  
by  
nse  
wife  
nd

Within this tomb lies the world's chiefest rose,  
She who was sweet, will now offend your nose.



This was the end of fair Rosamond,  
who, had she not been led astray by  
King Henry, with the glittering tinsel  
of royalty, might have made a wife  
worthy for the greatest peer in England.

*FINIS.*



nd,  
by  
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wife  
nd.